

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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R 111535Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4295

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL JERSUSALEM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XF, VT

SUBJECT: POPE PAUL DISCUSSES JERUSALEM AND HOLY PLACES

REF:ROME 4905

1. FOR THE SECOND TIME IN ONE WEEK, POPE PAUL HAS TURNED HIS ATTENTION TO THE HOLY LAND. ADDRESSING CROWD OF 15,000 AT HIS WEEKLY AUDIENCE APRIL 10, HE SAID, "WE HAVE ALWAYS BEFORE OUR SPIRIT THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST, SURROUNDING THE PRO-PHETIC CITY OF PEACE, JERUSALEM, SYMBOL FOR US OF THE HEAVENLY CITY, AND AROUND THAT LAND, HOLY FOR SO MANY BIBLICAL AND EVANGELICAL CLAIMS ESPECIALLY WHERE A STATE OF CONFLICT STILL PERSISTS, AND WHERE, BESIDES AN APPROPRIATE STATUTE WITH INTERNATIONAL GUARANTEE FOR THE HOLY CITY OF JERUSALEM AND AN ADEQUATE JURIDICAL GUARDIANSHIP OF THE HOLY PLACES, A JUST AND EQUITABLE SETTLEMENT OF THE REFUGEE POPULATIONS IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY."

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2. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH ABOVE LANGUAGE IS OFFICIAL VERSION AS CARRIED IN "L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO," SOME CONFUSION RESULTED FROM FACT THAT POPE PAUL HAD SAID, "AN APPROPRIATE INTERNATIONAL JURIDICAL GUARDIANSHIP OF THE HOLY PLACES AND AN CONVENIENT SETTLEMENT OF THE REFUGEE POPULATIONS IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY." OUR VATICAN SOURCES ASSURED US HOWEVER THAT NO CHANGE IN VATICAN POLICY WAS IMPLIED BY SLIGHT DISCREPANCY IN LANGUAGE, AND THAT POPE DEFINITELY NOT NOW INSISTING ON INTERNATIONALIZATION. DIPLOMATS ACCREDITED TO HOLY SEE WITH WHOM WE HAVE SPOKEN VIEW LATEST PAPAL STATEMENT AS PART OF CAMPAIGN TO KEEP PUBLIC AWARE OF VATICAN'S INTEREST IN HAVING ITS SAY ON JERUSALEM AT NEGOTIATING TABLE WHEN TIME COMES. VOLPE

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